

Wilson Pleased with President Obama's Medical Malpractice Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC - During his address on health care last week, President Barack Obama addressed the issue of medical malpractice. While he maintained that tort reform is no "silver bullet," the President acknowledged that it should be looked into as a possible piece of reform. Today the President directed the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to launch a new medical liability demonstration initiative. \$25 million dollars worth of grants through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be made available for these projects. These grants will focus on putting patients first, streamlining patient-doctor communication, reducing liability premiums for doctors, and addressing medical injuries lawsuits.

Following this announcement, Congressman Wilson made the following statement:

"Today's announcement from the White House demonstrates a willingness to work across the aisle to achieve real health care reform. I have spoken to a number of doctors and medical professionals that support medical malpractice reform, and I am glad to see that the Administration is listening, too. This project will start in less than 30 days and will provide grants to help states and health care systems administer these important changes.

I have said all along that I am open to any idea that will help reduce excessive costs in our health care system, and tort reform makes good common sense. While this is an important step, there is still a lot of work to be done to reign in the high health care costs that are hurting working families. I am very pleased that this issue has been addressed, and I look forward to making more progress on health care reforms in this country."